

Remarks

In the October 3, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 to 3, 6, 8 to 13, and 33 to 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,819,285 ("Damico et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,696 ("Araki et al."). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1Preamble

Addressing claim 1, the Examiner stated that "Damico discloses a method for file sharing over a first network (see col. 2, line 50-60)." 10/3/03 Office Action, p. 3. The cited lines of Damico et al. states:

An enrollment means is coupled to the communications path and the database, and is provided for enrolling a user on the computer service. The enrollment means includes means for determining a co-marketer that directed the user to the computer service, and means for assigning a unique user identification number to the user. The enrollment means further includes means for storing a co-marketer identification symbol representative of a co-marketer and the unique user identification number of a user in the co-marketer identification and user identification fields, respectively, of one of the user records.

Damico et al., col. 2, lines 50 to 60. The cited lines disclose an online service provider having an enrollment means for (1) identifying a co-marketer that has directed a user to the online service provider and (2) assigning a unique identification number to the user. The cited lines do not disclose "a method for file sharing" as recited in claim 1. Applicant fails to see the correspondence between the disclosed elements of the cited lines and the allegedly anticipated element of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to identify the "file" being shared in Damico et al. by its reference number and/or name.

First element

The Examiner states that Damico et al. discloses "authenticating a user on a first computer connected to a second computer by the first network (see col. 6, lines 34-38 ...)" and "[f]urther, in column 8, lines 16-21, Damico discloses means attempts to enroll the users

in on line service 140 by assigning the user a unique user identification number." 10/3/03 Office Action, p. 3. The cited lines of Damico et al. states:

[E]ach Co-Marketer Identification Table includes a separate record for storing a co-marketer identification code associated with each co-marketer (e.g., co-marketer#1, co-marketer#2, co-marketer#3) that has been authorized by OLS 140 to route users to OLS site 128.

Damico et al., col. 6, lines 33 to 38.

Referring still to step 240, if the enrollment means 145 determines that the user has been directed to OLS 140 from an authorized co-marketer, the enrollment means attempts to enroll the user in OLS 140 by assigning the user a unique user identification number and then asking the user to enter various personal information which is then stored in a Subscriber Information Directory Table on enrollment database 146.

Damico et al., col. 8, lines 14 to 21. The cited lines disclose an online service provider 140 having an enrollment means 145 for verifying if a user has been directed to online service provider 140 by an authorized co-marketer in a "Co-Marketer Identification Table" and if so, assigning a unique ID to the user. By citing this reference against the present element, the Applicant assumes that the Examiner interprets user station 102a as the "first computer" in claim 1 and online service provider 140 as the "second computer" in claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to confirm this interpretation.

Second element

The Examiner states that Damico et al. discloses "creating a temporary directory on the second computer if the user is authenticated, wherein the temporary directory has at least a partially random directory name (see col. 5, lines 40-42 ...)." 10/3/03 Office Action, p. 3.

The cited lines of Damico et al. states:

As explained more fully below in connection with FIG. 5, when the user of user station 102a clicks on the advertisement for OLS 140 at WWW site 122a, WWW site 122a forms a special destination URL having two parts. The first part of the destination URL is formed of the URL associated with OLS site 128 (e.g., WWW.OLS.COMM). The second part of the destination URL is formed of a destination file name (e.g., INDEX.HTML) and a UNIX™ symbolic link (e.g., \CM1) that is prepended to the beginning of the destination filename by the co-marketer (co-marketer #1) associated with WWW site 122a.

Damico et al., col. 5, lines 34 to 45. The cited lines disclose that when a user visits a co-marketer's website 122a and clicks on an advertisement, co-marketer's website 122a forms a special URL (which is not a directory) that directs the user to an online service provider's website 128. More importantly, part of the URL identifies the co-marketer (e.g., "\CM1" in "WWW.OLS.COM\CM1\INDEX.HTML" identifies co-marketer #1). The cited lines do not disclose "creating a temporary directory on a second computer" as recited in claim 1.

Applicant fails to see the correspondence between the disclosed elements of the cited lines and the allegedly anticipated element of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to identify the "temporary directory," the "second computer," and the "partially random directory name" in Damico et al. by their reference numbers and/or names.

Third element

The Examiner states that Damico et al. discloses "receiving a request for a first file from the user on the first computer to the second computer, wherein the first file is on a third computer connected to the second computer by a second network (see col. 4, lines 34-51 ...)." The cited lines of Damico et al. states:

System 100 includes a first type of user station 102. The user station 102 includes a personal computer (PC) 104 and user software 106 which resides on PC 104. User software 106 includes a graphical user interface (not shown) for facilitating communications between user station 102 and On-Line Service (OLS) 140. OLS 140 represents a computer service such as, for example, an information retrieval service, a travel reservation service, or a stock trading service, which is available on-line to a user of user station 102. User station 102 is coupled to a Fiber Distributed Data Interface (FDDI) 141 in OLS 140 by a communications channel 108. In alternate embodiments, a standard communications bus or a local area network may be substituted for FDDI 141. Communications channel 108 may consist of a communications link formed over a public network such as the Internet. Alternatively, communications channel 108 may consist of a communications link formed between PC 104 and FDDI 141 over a commercial network.

Damico et al., col. 4, lines 34 to 51. The cited lines disclose a user station 102 that can access online service provider 140 through a communication channel 108. Online service provider 140 can be an information retrieval service, a travel reservation service, or a stock trading service. Applicant assumes the Examiner interprets the information provided online service provider 140 as the "file" recited in claim 1 and online service provider 140 as the "third

computer" in claim 1. However, in the discussion of the first element of claim 1, the Examiner has already interpreted online service provider 140 as the "second computer" in claim 1. Thus, the Examiner has inconsistently interpreted the role played by online service provider 140. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify his interpretation by identifying the "file," the "second computer," and the "third computer" in Damico et al. by its reference number and/or name.

Fourth element

The Examiner then states that Damico et al. discloses "determining whether the user on the first computer is permitted access to the first file (see col. 2, lines 52-55 ...)." 10/3/03 Office Action, p. 4. As in the discussion of the preamble of claim 1, these cited lines disclose an online service provider having an enrollment means for (1) identifying if an authorized co-marketer has directed a user to an online service provider and (2) assigning a unique identification number to the user. Thus, it again appears that the Examiner interprets user station 102 or 102a as the "first computer" in claim 1.

Fifth element

The Examiner states that Damico et al. discloses "creating a symbolic link in the temporary directory on the second computer if the user is permitted access, wherein the symbolic link points to the first file on the third computer (sec col. 6, lines 26-32 ...)." 10/3/03 Office Action, p. 4. The cited lines of Damico et al. states:

In system 100, a co-marketer will be authorized to route users to site 128 only after the co-marketer has been assigned and has received a unique UNIX™ symbolic link associated with the co-marketer from OLS 140. First and second Co-Marketer Identification Tables are stored respectively on enrollment database 146 and accounting database 144 at OLS 140. As described more fully below in conjunction with FIG. 4, each Co-Marketer Identification Table includes a separate record for storing a co-marketer identification code associated with each co-marketer (e.g., co-marketer#1, co-marketer#2, co-marketer#3) that has been authorized by OLS 140 to route users to OLS site 128.

Damico et al., col. 6, lines 26 to 32. The cited lines disclose that a co-marketer will be authorized to direct a user to online service provider 140 if online service provider 140 has assigned the co-marketer a unique UNIX symbolic link (e.g., "\CM1" in

"WWW.OLS.COM\CM1\INDEX.HTML"). The cited lines do not disclose "creating a symbolic link in the temporary directory on the second computer if the user is permitted access, wherein the symbolic link points to the first file on the third computer" as recited in claim 1. Applicant fails to see the correspondence between the disclosed elements of the cited lines and the allegedly anticipated element of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to identify the "temporary directory," the "second computer," and the "third computer" in Damico et al. by their reference numbers and/or names.

Sixth element

The Examiner then states that Damico et al. discloses "creating a web page description including an URL to the link comprising a path to the first file in the temporary directory on the second computer (see col. 2-3, lines 64-7 ..."). 10/3/03 Office Action, p. 4. The cited lines of Damico et al. states:

The first site has a universal resource locator (URL) symbol for uniquely identifying an address of the first site on the WWW, and the second site has a URL symbol for uniquely identifying an address of the second site on the WWW. A composite URL symbol is received at the second WWW site when the user is directed from the first site to the second site. The composite URL symbol has a first portion corresponding to the URL symbol of the second site, and a second portion that includes information corresponding to the identity of the first site.

Damico et al., col. 2, line 64 to col. 3, line 7. The cited lines disclose that the first website (i.e., the co-marketer's website) creates a URL having (1) a first portion that directs the user to a second website (i.e., the online service provider's website) and (2) a second portion that identifies the first website to the second website. The cited lines do not disclose "creating a web page description including an URL comprising a path to the first file in the temporary directory on the second computer" as recited in claim 1. Applicant fails to see the correspondence between the disclosed elements of the cited lines and the allegedly anticipated element of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to identify the "web page description," the "file," the "temporary directory," and the "second computer" in Damico et al. by their reference numbers and/or names.

Seventh element

The Examiner states that Damico et al. discloses "transmitting the web page description to the first computer via the first network (see col. 11, lines 54-56 ...)." 10/3/03 Office Action, p. 4. The cited lines of Damico et al. states:

In accordance with an alternative preferred embodiment of the present invention, a further system (described in connection with FIG. 6 and Table II below) may alternatively be used to store and transmit the UNIX™ symbolic link information that was originally passed when the user arrived at the home page of OLS site 128.

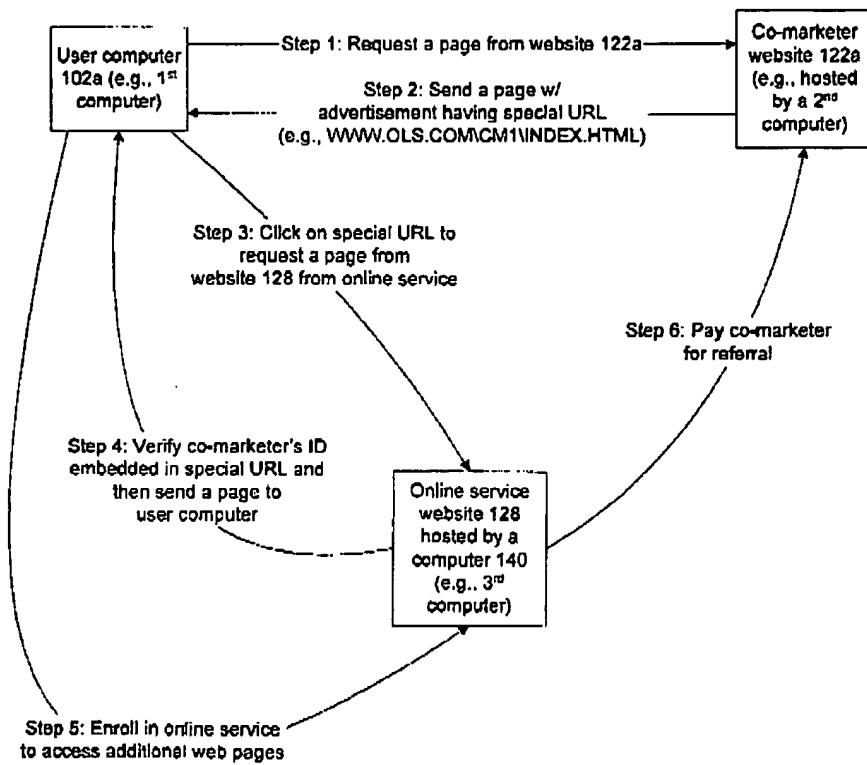
Damico et al., col. 11, line 50 to 56. The cited lines disclose a special URL that first directed the user to an online service provider's website includes an identifier of a co-marketer (i.e., the UNIX symbolic link in the special URL). If the user goes from page to page on the online service provider 140's website 128, the co-marketer's identifier may be lost. To prevent this, another system in online service provider 140 is used to keep track of the co-marketer's identifying information. The cited lines do not disclose "transmitting the web page description to the first computer via the first network" as recited in claim 1. Applicant fails to see the correspondence between the disclosed elements of the cited lines and the allegedly anticipated element of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to identify the "first computer," the "temporary directory," and the "second computer" in Damico et al. by their reference numbers and/or names.

Comparing the present invention to Damico et al.

The present invention provides a method for a user on a first computer (e.g., a client computer) to access a second computer (e.g., a web server) to retrieve a file (e.g., a photo) saved on a third computer (e.g., a file server). To do so, the user on the first computer is first authenticated by the second computer. The second computer then creates a temporary directory that has a partially random directory name. The second computer also creates in the temporary directory a symbolic link that points to the first file on the third computer. The second computer then sends a web page including a URL to the file in the temporary directory to the first computer as if the file is located in the temporary directory on the second computer even though the file is actually located on the third computer. By transmitting the web page,

the file on the third computer is also transmitted to the user on the first computer due to the symbolic link. Afterwards, the second computer deletes the temporary directory to prevent unauthorized access to the file on the third computer.

Damico et al. discloses a system 100 for identifying a co-marketer whose web site 122a has directed a user on a user station 102a to an online service website 128 of an online service 140. Applicant provides the following simplified figure to more clearly illustrate Damico et al.



In step 1, user on user station 102a requests a web page from co-marketer's website 122a. In step 2, co-marketer's website 122a sends the requested web page with an advertisement for online service website 128. The advertisement has a special URL 504 (e.g., "WWW.OLS.COM\CM1\INDEX.HTML") consisting of two parts. The first part is the address of online service website 128 (i.e., "WWW.OLS.COM"). The second part consists of a co-marketer identifier (i.e., "\CM1") and a file name of the web page to be served to the user (i.e., "\INDEX.HTML"). In step 3, if the user clicks on the advertisement, special URL 504 directs the user to online service website 128. The online service provider 140 will have a

UNIX symbolic link (shown as arrows in Fig. 5) that links special URL 504 to a web page 510 (e.g., ".../INFO.TOC" or ".../ENROLL.TOC"). In step 4, online service computer 140 uses the co-marketer identifier in special URL 504 (i.e., "CM1") to identify the co-marketer that directed the user to online service website 128. If the co-marketer is authorized to direct users to online service website 128, then online service website 128 sends the requested web page to the user. In step 5, the user can enroll with the online service website 128 to receive an ID for accessing additional pages on online service website 128.

As described above, the second part of the special URL is used to identify the co-marketer that directed a user to an online service website 128. To do so without having to create individual web pages for each co-marketer, UNIX symbolic links are used to link special URLs from the co-marketers to a common web page. As shown in Fig. 5 of Damico et al., special URLs "WWW.OLS.COM\CM1\INDEX.HTML" from co-marketer #1, "WWW.OLS.COM\CM2\INDEX.HTML" from co-marketer #2, and "WWW.OLS.COM\CM3\INDEX.HTML" from co-marketer #3 can be linked to one web page 512 (or 510, depending on the embodiment) by symbolic links that are shown as arrows between the URLs and the web pages. Another part of Damico et al. is concerned with preserving the co-marketer identifier in the special URL as the user jumps from page to page in the online service website 128.

Throughout the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has failed to understand how the Examiner is applying Damico et al. to disclose the elements of claim 1. To expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to identify the elements of Damico et al., by their reference numbers and/or names, that correspond to the elements in claim 1 in Damico et al. Specifically, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to identify the "user," the "first computer," the "second computer," the "third computer," the "first network," the "second network," the "temporary directory," the "first file," the "symbolic link," and the "web page description" in Damico et al. by their reference numbers and/or names. Until the Examiner has done so and for the arguments presented above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over Damico et al. in view of Araki et al.